THE LAMENTABLE COMPLAINTS

OF

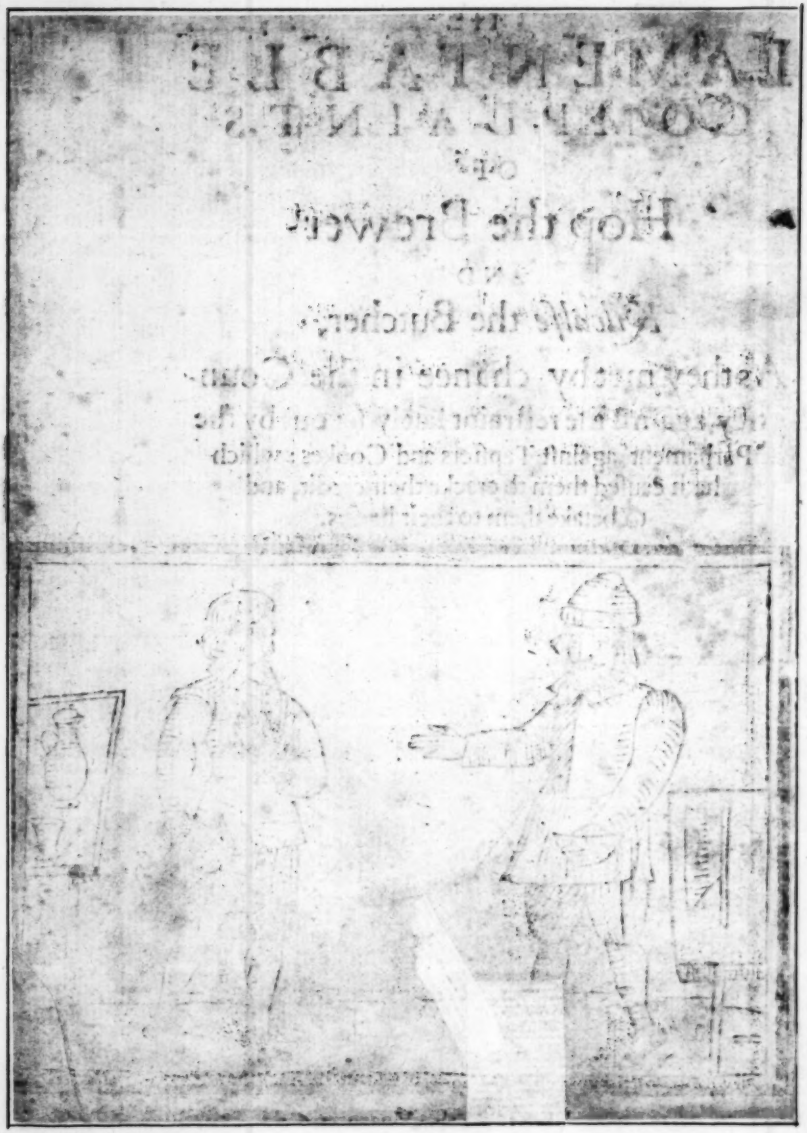
Hop the Brewer

AND

Kilcalfe the Butcher,

As they met by chance in the Countrey, against the restraint lately set out by the Parliament, against Tapsters and Cookes: which hath caused them to cracke their credit, and to betake them to their heeles.

Printed in the Yeare 1641.



THE Lamentable Complaints of Hop the *Brewer* and KILCALFE the *Butcher*.

Hop.

WHAT neighbour *Kilcalfe*, who would have thought to meet you here, what good newes is there ſtirring in London I pray can you tell?

Kilcalfe. Newes Mr. *Hop*, there is great ſtore ſuch as it is, but none I am ſure that is good for you or me.

Hop. I hope Mr. *Kilcalfe* there is none will prove hurtfull to us.

Kilcal. Yes truly neighbour there is ill newes for us.

Hop I pray my good friend let me heare all the newes whatſoever it be.

Kilcal Why? I will tell you, Sir, ſince you are ſo inquiſitive: There is A-Bell (and one of the

greateſt in the Town) lately falne from Aldermary Church, and ſome ſay it is burſt all in peeces.

Hop. Well Sir what can this hurt you or me? but ſay this Bell be broke, it may be new caſt and hanged and all will be well again.

Kilcal. Very right Sir, and this may bee done with little charge, and beſides there are ropes provided already; there are three generous Vintners in the Pariſh that have promiſed to defray the whole charge.

Hop. The Vintners may afford it neighbour, I hear they pay no Tunnage now the wine Patent is put downe, but pray what is this news you ſpeake off?

Kilcal. Why, have you not heard of the reſtraint that was lately ſet forth by the Parliament, whereby all Cookes and Tapſters and many other profeſſions are forbidden to dreſſe meat and draw drinke on Sundaies?

Hop. Indeed I have heard that ſome ſuch thing was intended, but I never heard that it was in blacke and white untill this houre, I hope there is no ſuch thing, is there neighbour, are you ſure?

Kilcal. Sure ſay you! Am I ſure that ever I knockt downe an oxe and cut his throat on a Sunday morning thinke you? ſfoot ſhall I not beleeve my owne eies?

Hop. I would they had beene out, ſo thou hadſt not lived to ſee this chance.

Kil Nay now neighbour I muſt tell you, you are ſomewhat too bitter, did you not promiſe to

heare

heare me whatsoever it were, and seeing you are so hot, farewell.

Hop. Nay good neighbour stay, I cry thee heartily mercy, it was my passion which made me so much forget my selfe, but if this be true.

Kil. If me no if's, tis true as I tell you.

Hop. Why then what wil become of us?

Kil. Truely I know not, wee must eene shut up our doores, and never so much as take leave of our Land-lords.

Hop. As I am an honest man, you and I are both of a minde, you have spoke my owne thoughts, for I am sure if I tarry till quarter day, my Land-lord will provide me a houle *gratis*, I should bee very unwilling to accept of his kindnesse, and hee to my knowledge was alwaies very forward to do such a curtesie to the worst debter he had.

Kil. Truely Master *Hop*, I am not so much ingaged to my Land-lord for his love, as you to yours, but this I am sure there is a Grasier dwelling in this part that hath my hand (downe upon a peece of sheepskin) not for my honesty, but for some certaine money which I owe him, and if I doe not wisely prevent him, I know not which of the Counters I am like to keepe my Christmas in.

Hop. I pray Master *Kilcalfe* can you prevent him?

Kil. Why, Ile shew him the bag, Ile run man, dost understand me?

Hop. Yes very well, but I believe that hee had

rather you would ſhew him his money, and then he would underſtand you.

Kil. But by his favour he ſhall not underſtand, nor ſtand underany money of mine if I can keep it from him.

Hop. But I pray tell me, how came you ſo much in debt? did you uſe to truſt your cuſtomers for your meat? I believe you dealt with them for ready money, did you not?

Kil. Truely Sir I was forced to truſt ſome times when my cuſtomers had not money to pay mee: There was one Maſter *Rule roſt* a Cooke that owed me almoſt a hundred pounds, who no ſooner heard of this ſtrict command againſt ſelling of meat on Sundayes, but hee hanged a padlocke on the doore and away went Pilgarlicke. I cannot heare of my Gentleman ſince his departure, nor doe I ever looke to receive my money now.

Hop. Now, why not now?

Kil. Becauſe I doe never looke to ſee him againe, but put the caſe he ſhould ever come again, hee would never bee able to pay mee without hee were ſuffered to ſell meat on Sundayes in ſervice time.

Hop. Why? is it impoſſible for Cookes to get money on the weeke daies? I know no reaſon but why they may as well as on the Sundayes.

Kil. Yes Sir, tis very poſſible, but I will tell you what I have obſerved in ſome of theſe Cooks. You ſhould have a Cooke that upon Sundaies would

dreſſe

dreſſe twice. So much meat as upon any other day, and ſell it three times as deare; for Sir his doore ſhall ſtand open all the ſervice time, and any body may be ſuffered to come in (the Church Wardens excepted) and he that calls for any of his roſted beefe, hath it weighed to him by the ounce, or at leaſt one would thinke it ſo by the thine ſlices, which hee with much pollicy carveth from the ſpit; and ſo by this his pollicy hee will make you eighteene pence of that which (on any other day) hee would take eight pence for, and greete you with a welcome into the bargaine, but thoſe daies are now paſt, and therefore I diſpaire of ever ſeeing my money.

Hop. I am juſt in your caſe, did you not know *Nick Froth* the Tapſter at the Bell? he was a man that uſed his cuſtomers as your Cook uſed his, for in ſervice time on Sundaies you ſhould have him draw his beere out at a penny a demy can, or a halfe pint; beſides the witty knave had an excellent faculty in frothing, hee would get as much in drawing halfe a barrell on a Sunday as he ſhould by a whole barrell on any other day; and for his Indian ſmoake, he ſold that as deare as Apothecaries doe their Ambergreece: I ſeeing him in this hopefull thriving way, truſted him with a hundred and fifty barrels of Beer, in hope (though) I ſhould have had my mony before this time, but he being debarred of this priviledge, I utterly diſpaire of payment, and ſo by this and many other ſuch like debtors I am like to be undone, and therefore Ile not ſtay in England.

Kil.

Kil. Then let us both returne to London and gather up as many of our debts as we can, to beare our charges in our journey. If we can but once get crosse the great pond, wee may with confidence outface our Creditors, our daies of payment draw neere, therefore let us make good use of our time that we have to tarry.

Come let's away, and if the wind sit right,
Weele be at Dover by to morrow at night.

FINIS.